



## RETAINING AND EXPANDING WASHINGTON'S MILITARY SECTOR

The federal Department of Defense (DoD) is the second-largest employer in Washington, responsible for approximately \$13 billion annually in economic impacts to the communities where military installations are located. DoD also enters into numerous contracts with businesses and universities in Washington for research, equipment and other services that boost our economy.



The nation's defense sector is evolving and responding to changing geopolitical conditions, new technologies and budget considerations. DoD is in the process of refocusing personnel and assets to the Asia-Pacific region and has proposed new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds, which could occur in 2015. DoD routinely makes force structure decisions which can have wide-reaching repercussions for Washington communities.

Governor Gregoire is committed to demonstrating to DoD and federal policy makers that maintaining and expanding military missions, as well as growing military contracting here in Washington, promotes national security and is a wise fiscal investment. This is why the Governor and the congressional delegation established the Washington Military Alliance.

### WASHINGTON MILITARY ALLIANCE

Led by the Governor and the congressional delegation, the Washington Military Alliance includes state legislators, state agency staff, local elected officials and community group members supporting military installations and organizations promoting economic development. Its purpose is to provide a unified message as military budget decisions are being considered and recommend actions that can be taken at the local, state and federal levels to enhance military mission expansion as well as military contracting in our state. As a first phase of this effort, the Alliance hired a consultant to review DoD strategic plans and provide an analysis about how our state fits into them. The report is available at: [http://www.ofm.wa.gov/reports/mil\\_report.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/reports/mil_report.pdf).

The Governor's proposed budget implements the following recommendations from this report:

### DIRECTOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Governor's budget funds a new director of military affairs position. This individual will be the point person for the Governor, congressional delegation, community groups and military leaders on military issues.

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The director of military affairs will also serve as a policy advisor to the Governor and perform outreach activities to stakeholders. He or she will also assist community groups, local governments and the military in identifying and using state funding sources for planning grants, infrastructure improvements and other resources.

### **MILITARY COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS**

The Governor's budget creates a competitive match grant program to help communities in addressing particular areas of need to support their local base. For example, these funds could be used as a supplement to federal funds for joint land use studies, which help communities manage development around bases. The director of military affairs will be responsible for administering the grant program. (\$500,000)

### **IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON INSTALLATIONS THROUGH SCHOOLS**

Quality of life is a critical characteristic considered by our service men and women when applying to locate to particular installations. It's also a criterion upon which bases are judged in BRAC. Part of improving quality of life on our bases is improving the quality of their schools.

Congress created the School Construction Assistance Program to modernize and replace schools on our nation's military installations. The grant program requires minimum 20 percent local match.

The Clover Park School District has six schools serving Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). Two elementary schools, Hillside and Carter Lake, have already successfully secured grants and are now under construction. Two other elementary schools, Clarkmoor and Greenwood, are on track to receive funding in the July 2013 release. The Governor's budget appropriates matching funds. (\$11.9 million)

### **PRIORITIZING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE MILITARY**

The population at JBLM is our nation's leading power projection platform, meaning an Army installation that deploys one or more high-priority, active component brigades and/or deploys high-priority Army reserve component units. JBLM has more than doubled in the past decade, and our transportation infrastructure must expand to meet these growing needs.

The state has provided \$4.2 million to complete several interchange justification reports, which are the first step toward construction of new freeway interchanges near JBLM entrance gates. The Governor encourages the Legislature to fully fund construction.